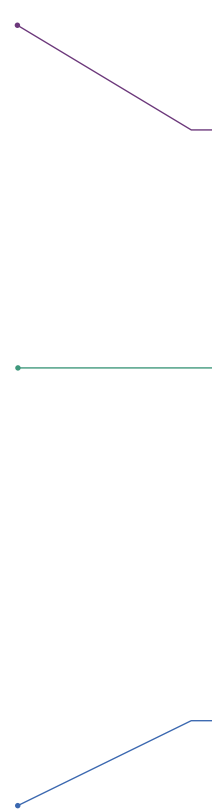
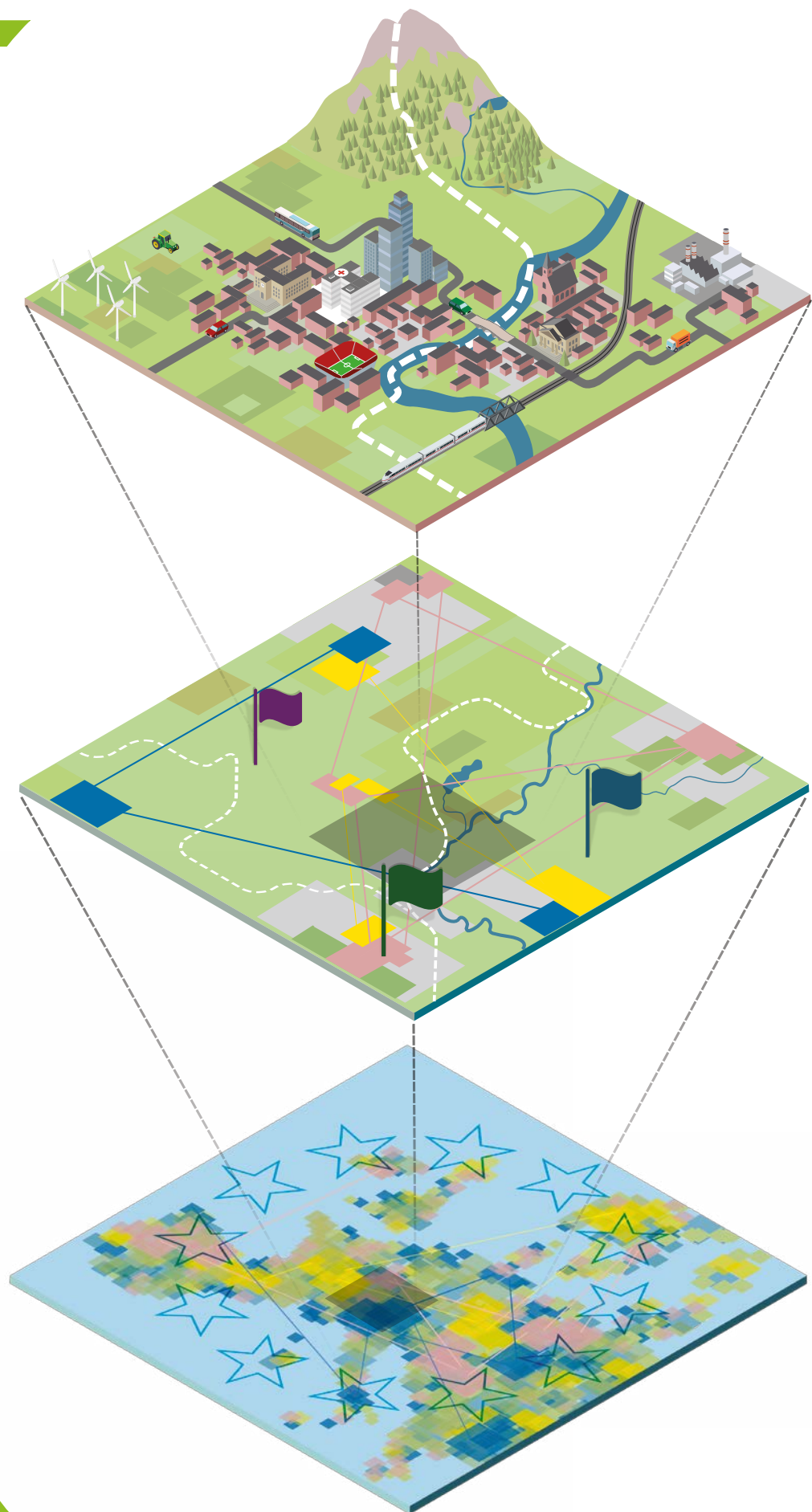
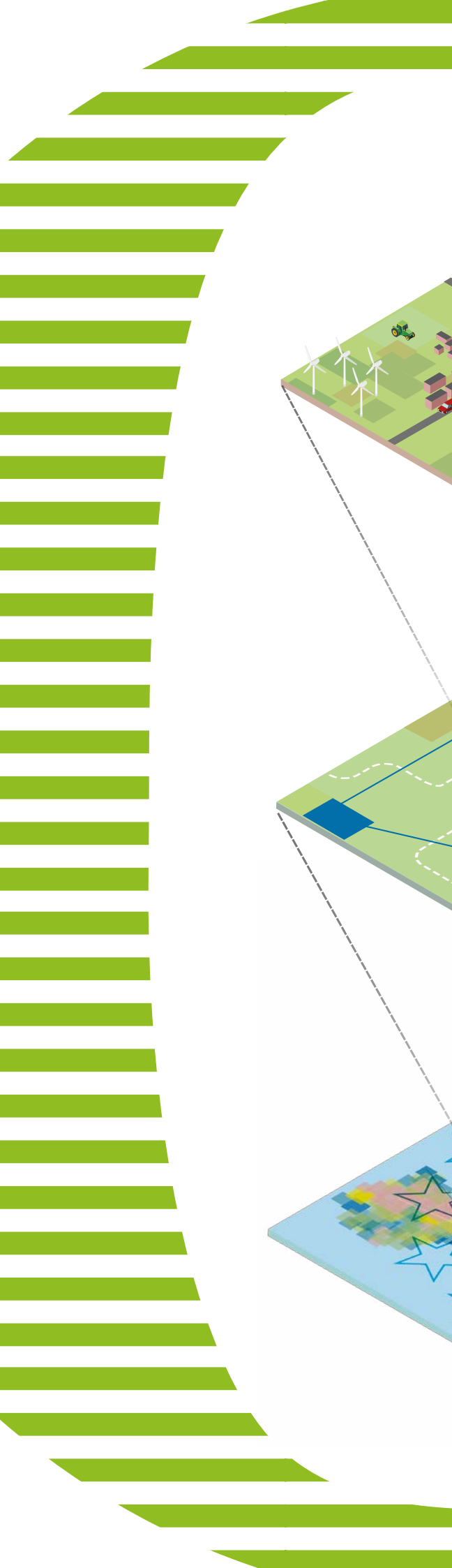


A stylized map of Europe is formed by a series of horizontal bars of varying lengths. The bars on the left side of the map are light blue, while the bars on the right side are a darker, olive green color. The bars are arranged to follow the general shape of the European continent, including the British Isles, Scandinavia, and the Mediterranean coast.

**THE MOT—SUPPORTING
CROSS-BORDER
TERRITORIES**

—
**EUROPE
IN ACTION**



CROSS-BORDER TERRITORIES

LOCAL LEVEL

Cross-border regions, whether they are urban, rural or maritime, are characterised by:

- inhabitants who cross the border to work, make purchases, or for leisure activities, etc.
- a shared heritage and environment;
- trade and tourism exchanges;
- a common job market and economic development;
- shared equipment and services (hospitals, transport, schools, etc.).

NATIONAL LEVEL

- Border regions are peripheral and often little account is taken of them in national policy.
- However, borders, which are places of exchange and openness, are a resource for the inhabitants and businesses in these territories.
- But the existence of different political, legal, cultural and linguistic systems creates obstacles to cooperation.

EUROPEAN LEVEL

- Cross-border territories are testing grounds for European construction: free movement, territorial cohesion and European citizenship are at the heart of the European project.
- However, they are not sufficiently taken into account by European policies.

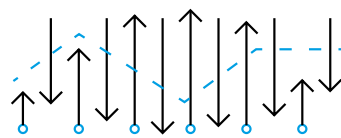
CROSS-BORDER FACTS

CROSS-BORDER TERRITORIES REPRESENT



40%
of the territory of the European Union.

More than 1 European in 3 lives in a border region.



2 MILLION

cross-border workers in the EU – of which over 20% live in France.¹

20,000 KM

OF INTERNAL LAND BORDERS IN THE EU.

37

cross-border conurbations in Europe.



11
of which are on France's borders.

¹ Source: EUROSTAT, Labour Force Survey, 2015

CROSS-BORDER ISSUES

Crossing a border presents an opportunity for finding work, receiving healthcare, accessing services, exchanging with one's neighbours, etc. But the inhabitants of border regions face obstacles that hamper these exchanges on a daily basis.

Cross-border cooperation aims to resolve these difficulties, promote the resources linked to the border and build common living spaces.

LOCAL LEVEL

Cross-border territories require specific management by local and regional players. This management takes the form of thematic projects¹ and integrated territorial development across the whole of the cross-border territory.

NATIONAL LEVEL

Countries with shared borders need to adapt their policies to take account of cross-border issues, support cooperation between local and regional players and cooperate with one another in their own areas of competence.

The objective is to find solutions to common issues by coordinating legislation, policy and domestic funding across each border.

EUROPEAN LEVEL

The European institutions promote cross-border integration:

- by providing the support of cohesion policy (INTERREG) to cross-border regions;
- by creating legal tools suited to projects and territories, such as the EGTC;
- by developing sectoral policies that meet the needs of cross-border regions;
- by promoting networks for exchanges on the issue of borders.

¹ In the different areas of local and regional action (the economy, employment, the environment, services, etc.).

THE TRANSFRONTIER OPERATIONAL MISSION (MOT) –

RESPONSES APPROPRIATE TO EACH LEVEL

The MOT's role is to assist project developers, to promote the interests of cross-border territories and to facilitate the networking of players and the sharing of experiences. It acts as the interface between the different stakeholders in order to find cross-border solutions at the right levels.

TECHNICAL ENGINEERING

- The MOT supports cross-border territories and players involved in cooperation in their projects.¹
- Its assistance can relate to territorial assessments, the drawing-up of strategies, legal and economic studies, project management support, the design of cross-border structures, etc.

RESOURCES AND ENABLING NETWORKING

- The MOT enables networking among players and facilitates the sharing of experiences between territories.
- It organises seminars, conferences, and provides a technicians' platform², a newsletter, a resource centre, a legal database², and a documentation portal².

COMMUNICATION OF NEEDS

- The MOT identifies obstacles and looks for solutions at the right levels.
- An online forum² enables members to exchange directly with one another, seek out similar experiences and bottom-up feedback regarding their needs.

SUPPORT AT NATIONAL LEVEL

- The MOT provides support at national level in order that better account is taken of cross-border territories in public policy.
- It is in constant contact with French government ministers, the CGET (General Commission for Territorial Equality), the Caisse des Dépôts and French Parliament to ensure that the cross-border dimension is taken into account in legislation and policies.

COORDINATION BETWEEN GOVERNMENTS

The MOT provides support on each border to the coordination between neighbouring countries: resolution of legal obstacles, cross-border statistical observation, etc.

ALONE OR WITH OTHER EUROPEAN NETWORKS, THE MOT:

- | | | | | |
|---|---|--|--|---|
| - supports networking between cross-border territories at European level; | - works for better recognition of these territories in European policy; | - assists the European institutions in their actions on cross-border issues; | - facilitates cooperation between European governments on cross-border issues; | - helps to disseminate good practices across Europe and elsewhere in the world. |
|---|---|--|--|---|

¹ In diverse areas: transport, spatial planning, governance, healthcare, employment and training, economic development, innovation, the environment, energy, culture, etc.

² Reserved for members.

The Transfrontier Operational Mission (MOT)

is an association that was set up in 1997 by the French government.

It is supported at national level by:

- the Commissariat Général à l'Égalité des Territoires (CGET – General Commission for Territorial Equality);
- the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and International Development, the Interior and Overseas France;
- the Caisse des Dépôts.

Its network is comprised of players in border territories: regions, provinces, municipalities, groupings of local authorities and territorial authorities, cross-border structures, governments, public enterprises, chambers of commerce and industry, federations, networks, urban planning agencies, etc.

This positioning facilitates structured dialogue between national and European authorities and local and regional players.

The MOT is also a technical team at the service of its members.

For any information and to find out how to join the MOT, please contact us:

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